pattern allows investments in Term Deposit Receipts, Public/Private Sector Bonds apart from Central and State Government securities. In these categories, market has become very competitive and returns are varying with extent of professionalism in investments so much so that returns in G-Secs have also become market driven and highly competitive. Since the yield on investments is becoming more and more market driven, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has decided to get benefited by appointing multi fund managers to bring in competition and professionalism in the fund management process and also help Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in facilitating comparative monitoring.

It is expected that this move will bring in better yields to Provident Fund corpus and give better returns to subscribers in future by instilling competition amongst fund managers.

Decline in employment opportunities

†360. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the anticipated decline in the employment opportunities due to economic recession, decreasing value of Dollars, increase in cost occasioned by inflation and fall in demand alongwith fall in production;

(b) the number of employment opportunities targeted to be generated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan under Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Rural Employment and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, indicating the details thereof, year-wise and plan-wise;

(c) whether the abovesaid schemes could provide relief to the retrenched persons; and

(d) the perspective schemes for their re-employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) With a view to assess impact of economic slowdown on employment in the industries/sectors presumed to be adversely affected by the slowdown during the quarter October-December, 2008, Ministry of Labour and Employment carried out a survey in important sectors, *viz.* Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems and Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO. These sectors contributed more than 60% to GDP in the year 2007-08. It has been revealed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown is noticed in the export oriented units.

Department of Commerce, Government of India has been undertaking sample surveys relating to reduction in exports and resultant job losses in export-related industries. In the updated sample survey on job losses for export-related industries for August, 2008 to 16 January, 2009, out of 402 units surveyed, the loss in export orders is around Rs. 6272 crores and loss of 1,09,513 jobs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As per Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, under the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), annual physical target for the number of urban poor to be assisted for setting up individual/group micro enterprises and number of urban poor to be imparted skill training are fixed at the national level on the basis of financial allocation made for the scheme in the Annual Plan/Budget.

The Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana has been merged in a new scheme called 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)' in August 2008 for implementation from 2008-09 to 2012-13 with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4735 crore towards margin money and Rs. 250 crore towards backward forward linkages with the target for generation of 37.37 lakh additional employment opportunities. The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has been subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) w.e.f. 1-4-2008. The targets and achievements for the period 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The above said schemes may cover the retrenched persons within their prescribed eligibility conditions. The Government has also started 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' for persons insured under Employees State Insurance Scheme who face involuntary unemployment w.e.f. 1st April, 2005. The insured persons under the scheme were entitled to an unemployment allowance for a period of upto six months equal to almost half the wages. The period has been raised to twelve months now by the Government. The scheme is designed to provide economic protection to workers facing involuntary unemployment due to closure of factory, establishment, retrenchment or permanent invalidity (not less than 50%) arising out of non-employment injury.

Statement

Target and Achievements of Employment Generation Schemes

Name of the Schemes	2007-08		2008-09	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5
Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)				
(i) No. of Urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises (In actual number)	120000	181050	120000	83100
(ii) No. of Urban poor imparted skill training (In actual number)	150000	248264	150000	155911

1	2	3	4	5
Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)				
Total Swarozgaris assisted (In actual number)	1352745	1699295	1762670	1082559
National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)				
No, of households provide employment (person days in Lakh)	Not fixed	14310.77	Not fixed	15571.94

Wage Boards for Print Media

361. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when the Wage Boards for Print Media were constituted and who are the Members of these Wage Boards;

(b) the details of the works done so far and by when the final report is proposed to be submitted;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Member Secretary and Assessor were appointed and salary was paid even before the Boards were constituted, if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Chairman has since resigned; if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether there has been complaint against working of the Wage Boards; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Two Wage Boards, one for Working Journalists and the other for Non-Journalist Newspaper Employees were constituted *vide* notifications dated 24th May, 2007. From amongst the four independent members, Dr. Justice K. Narayana Kurup was appointed as common Chairman of the two Wage Boards, the other common independent members being Shri K.M. Sahni, Shri P.N. Prasanna Kumar and Shri B.P. Singh. Shri Naresh Mohan, Shri Pratap T. Shah and Shri Gurinder Singh are the common representatives of the employer's organization in both the Wage Boards. Shri K. Vikram Rao, Dr. Nand Kishore Trikha and Shri Suresh Akhouri are the representatives of working journalists in the Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Shri Madan Padnis, Shri Uma Shankar Mishra and Shri M.S. Yadav are the representatives of non-journalist newspaper employees in the Wage Boards for non-journalist newspaper employees.

(b) The Wage Boards have been given three years to submit their reports to the Government from the date of their constitution *i.e.* 24.05.2007. In the meanwhile, the Wage